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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076132

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 8621 ACTION SECSTATE INFO RANGOON MARCH 22.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8621

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - TALK WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. I GAVE GENERAL PREM TINSULANON, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR, A SHORT BRIEFING ON THAI/U.S. NARCOTICS COLLABORATION TODAY. I TOLD HIM WE WERE PLEASED AT THE HIGH DEGREE OF COOPERATON WHICH EXISTED.

2. BURMA. IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH, I STRESSED THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF ARRIVING AT SOME DEGREE OF THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION OWING TO THE WAY OPIUM CAMPS AND REFINERIES ARE NOW VIRTUALLY STRADDLING THE BURMESE FRONTIER. I SHOWED HIM A MAP WITH SOME OF THE LOCATIONS.

3. KHUN SA. GENERAL PREM ASKED WHAT WE THOUGH ABOUT THE DICISION TO EXPEL CHANG CHI FU AND HIS PEOPLE. I
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SAID WE SELCOMED TI BUT WISHED THE RTG HAD GIVEN HIM 120 HOURS RATHER THAN 120 DAYS TO GET OUT. I SAID I HOPED THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE THE EXPULSION OF CHANG CHI FU AS AN INDICATION OF CHANGING THAI POLICIES AND THAT SOME COOPERATION WOULD EMERGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS IN RANGOON. PREM ASKED ABOUT GUB ATTITUDES AND I EXPLAINED BURMESE MISGIVINGS

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OVER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RTG AND BURMESE
MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS.

4. ONCB. I ASKED PREM WHETHER HE THOUGHT A REPLACE-
MENT FOR JUDGE PRAMUK AT ONCB WOULD BE SELECTED SOON.
PREM SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING FOR A VERY GOOD
MAN. PRAMUK BEHAVED LIKE A JUDGE, WHICH HE WAS, AND
SOMEONE MORE DYNAMIC WAS NEEDED. HE THOUGHT GENERAL
PHAO SARASIN COULD DO THE JOB WELL AND WONDERED WHETHER
I AGREED. I SAID PHAO WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CHOICE.
IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PICK SOMEONE SOON AS NOTHING MUCH
WAS HAPPENING. I NOTED THAT THE USG AND PROBABLY
OTHER GOVERNMENTS WERE PREPARED TO PITCH IN ON CROP
SUBSTITUTION, BUT UNTIL THERE WAS A REAL PROGRAM NO
INTERNATIONAL HELP COULD BE FORTHCOMING.

5. NARCOTICS DIVISION. ON THE SUBJECT OF SUPPRESSION,
I INQUIRED WHETHER HE HAD STUDIED THE QUESTION OF
ESTABLISHING A NARCOTICS DIVISION WITHIN THE THAI
NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT. PRE SAID SUCH A PROPOSAL
EXISTED AND HE WAS FOR IT. I SAID THAT WE THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, I
EXPLAINED THE STRUCTURE OF FEDERAL AND LOCAL NARCOTICS
LAW ENFORCEMENTS IN THE U.S.

6. COMMENT. WITH THE VERY VARIED RESPONSIBILITIES
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OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAVING BEEN THRUST ON HIM
VERY RECENTLY, I DON'T HAVE THE IMPRESSION GENERAL
PREM HAS TRIED TO FOCUS ON THAI NATIONAL POLICE
DEPARTMENT NARCOTICS OPERATIONS. HE IS GENERALLY
KNOWLEDGEABLE, HOWEVER, AND, HIS POSITION ON A POLICE
NARCOTICS DIVSION IS HELPFUL.
WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE VANCE

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